

Bugle device enhances honor guard performances for veterans

BY JENNIFER E. WEST

Nucleus Staff Writer

Two new welcome "recruits" to the Kirtland Honor Guard are electronic devices that fit into a bugle and play "Taps." The device is virtually unseen so the person holding the bugle appears to play a flawless rendition of the music that is used in rendering honors to military veterans at funerals.

Costing about \$500 each, the bugle devices allow the honor guard to include the performance of "Taps" in the event a live bugler is unavailable. Congress mandated the playing of "Taps" at funerals for honorably discharged veterans whose families have requested these honors. With two of the bugling devices, the honor guard is able to perform at two funerals, serving veterans' families, without conflict of times and locations.

"In the absence of a live bugler," said Master Sgt. David McKay, Kirtland Honor Guard noncommissioned officers in charge, "our only option was to play 'Taps' on a portable CD player. This was seen by many as an ignoble way to honor these veterans. With this device, we can provide the image of a live bugler and perform these honors more professionally."

"Since we began using this bugle (device), I have received multiple compliments on the dignified manner in which respect is paid to these men and women for their service to the country. And I feel a lot

more pride in the job we do based on the fact we don't have to hide a portable player near the grave site and "push play."

Sergeant McKay added the families are already informed about use of the bugle device even though they would not otherwise know. But families are pleased with the device as opposed to CD music at the gravesite.

"The sound quality is superb and the recorded rendition of 'Taps' is very crisp and clean," Sergeant McKay noted. "It sounds like a live bugler right down to the sound of the bugler taking in their breath while playing."

While the bugler devices allow the honor guard options for providing "Taps" at funerals, the honor guard's mandate is to use a live bugler whenever possible. As part of having live buglers available, a new team of civilian and active duty buglers is being recruited to perform at funerals. In the absence of any live buglers, families may still choose the CD rendition of "Taps."

Sergeant McKay says the unit's first bugle device was purchased after they received Air Force-level approval for use. The second device was provided by the Air Force Services Agency in February this year. Anyone interested in learning more about becoming

an honor guard member can call Sergeant McKay at 846-1804 or e-mail him at david.mckay@kirtland.af.mil.



Photo by Damion Bohannon

Airman 1st Class Charles Stillinger, 58th Operations Support Squadron appears to play "Taps" with the Ceremonial Bugle device.

Child Abuse Prevention Month: review your disciplining practices

BY MIKE WALTI

Kirtland AFB Family Advocacy

A child's death more than a decade ago provided the symbol that represents Child Abuse Prevention Month—the Blue Ribbon Campaign.

Bonnie Finney founded the campaign after her 3-year-old grandson was murdered by his mother's boyfriend. She chose blue because, "I intend to never forget the bruised body of my grandchild. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for the protection of our children."

The Blue Ribbon Campaign represents a nationwide effort to educate Americans about child abuse and its many forms. The campaign and the education efforts are observed during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Child abuse is any mistreatment or neglect of a child that results in harm or injury by a

caregiver. There are four basic forms of child abuse: neglect, physical, emotional, and sexual.

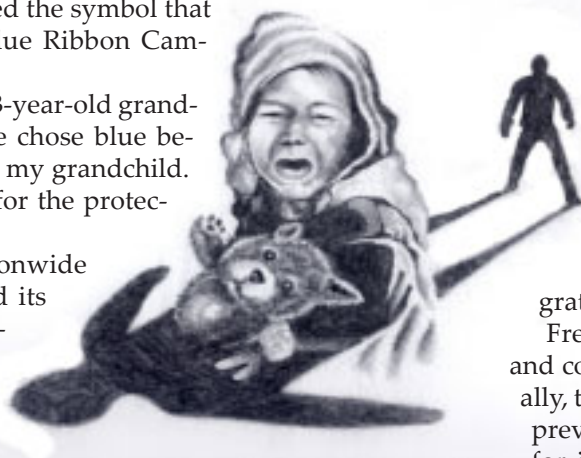
Neglect is usually defined as "the failure to provide for a child's basic needs," whether it is physical, educational or emotional.

Physical abuse can be the result of a single episode or repeated incidents.

Habitual name-calling, disparaging remarks, humiliation, being psychologically inaccessible or rejecting a child are all forms of emotional abuse.

The last form of child abuse is sexual abuse, which includes any sexual use of a child for profit or for the sexual gratification of an adult.

Free books and pamphlets, parent-infant and toddler play groups and counseling are also available through Family Advocacy. Additionally, the Kirtland AFB Community Helping Agencies Team offers many prevention and support resources. Call Family Advocacy, 846-0139 for information and assistance.



Air Force Times "Airman of the Year" program extended

SPRINGFIELD, Va.- *Air Force Times* "Airman of the Year" recognition program is being extended. Airmen now have until May 7 to nominate and honor the service person who best embodies the finest qualities of the men and women serving in today's U.S. Air Force. Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii will host the fourth annual ceremony on July 8.

The *Air Force Times* "Airman of the Year" award is designed to recognize a special Airman who has shown unusual or heretofore unrecognized honor, valor and dedication to fellow Airmen and the community during 2003. *Air Force Times*, along with supporting sponsors GNC and Uniformed Services Benefits Association (USBA) will honor this "everyday hero" of the U.S. Air Force, one whose efforts unselfishly and consistently go above and beyond the call of duty at a ceremony on Capitol Hill. Maybe this Airman is someone who jumped in to help out in a desperate situation or someone who has helped an important cause. We're looking for someone who is always ready to lend a hand, who sees what needs to be done and unselfishly does it, or that person who inspires and motivates others to be better people.

Nominations must include:

- Your name, address, commercial phone number and e-mail address.
- Your nominee's name, address and commercial phone number.
- Your nominee's current unit commander's name, address and commercial phone number.
- In 300 words or so, please describe why you feel your nominee deserves this award. Nothing fancy. Just make it legible.
- Names and contact information of three people who can verify the achievements of your

nominee.

- Nominees must be Active Duty, Guard or Reserve through August 31.
- Deadline for nominations is May 7.

Nominations may be sent:

Online: www.airforcetimes.com/airman

Email: airman@airforcetimes.com

Mail to: *Air Force Times* "Airman of the Year" Award, Air Force Times, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, Va., USA 22159

Fax to: *Air Force Times* "Airman of the Year" Award - (703)642-7325

Someone you know deserves this award. It might be an Airman in your unit or simply someone you've admired from afar. (For once, rank is irrelevant.) *Air Force Times* "Airman of the Year" winner and honorable mention recipients will be announced in *Air Force Times* on July 5. Maybe you know an Airman who inspires and motivates others to be better people and better Airmen.

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VA seeks POWs

Former prisoners of war not currently using Veterans Affairs benefits are urged to contact the VA to learn if they are eligible for disability compensation and other services.

Benefits were expanded July 2003 for former POWs through a regulation adding cirrhosis of the liver to the list of diseases or conditions that entitle disability compensation.

Similar policies making compensation easier for POWs have been enacted for those POWs detained 30 or more days and who develop specific illnesses.

More than 23,000 POWs already receive VA compensation, and more than 4,700 known former POWs were contacted in 2003. However, as many as 11,000 more POWs may not be receiving their entitlement.

Former POWs are exempt from making copayments for in- and out-patient medical care and have a special eligibility for enrollment in VA medical care. Free dental treatment for any dental condition is also available for POWs held more than 90 days.

Information about the benefits are available by contacting LeRoy Garcia, Enrollment Section chief, New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System, at 265-1711, extension 4522, or 800-465-8262.

AFSA convenes

The Air Force Sergeants Association Joint Division 11/12 Annual Convention is May 6-8 at the Sheraton Uptown in Albuquerque.

Guest speaker is retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch.

Convention information is available from Senior Master Sgts. Richard Gornal at 853-5130, James "Jimbo" Foltz at 846-3585 or Tech. Sgt. Carlos Chavez at 846-7116.